

AMENDED CLAIM SET

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet feeder, comprising: comprising:
a sheet receptacle disposed at the flank of a main apparatus for holding sheets thereon;
a feeding device rotatably arranged at the flank for sending sheets from the sheet receptacle into the main apparatus, the feeding device being rotatably shifted between an operating position in which sheet feeding action is made and a retracted position in which the device is retracted at the flank of the main apparatus while a predetermined waiting position is disposed between the operating position and the retracted position; and
an urging mechanism for pressing the feeding device by transmission of the drive force from a predetermined drive source, the urging mechanism being adapted to urge the feeding device only when the feeding device is at the operating position and the waiting position
~~wherein the feeding device is rotatably shifted between an operating position in which sheet feeding action is made and a retracted position in which the device is retracted at the flank of the main apparatus while a predetermined waiting position is disposed between the operating position and the retracted position, and the feeding device is urged by the urging mechanism, at least when set at the operating position and the waiting position and is freed from the urging of the urging mechanism when placed between the waiting position and the retracted position.~~

2. (Original) The sheet feeder according to Claim 1, wherein the urging mechanism has a predetermined range of play so that the rotation of the feeding device from the waiting position to the retracted position can be made within the predetermined range of play.

3. (Original) The sheet feeder according to Claim 2, wherein the urging mechanism includes a projected portion joined to one of either the drive source or the feeding device and a hollowed portion joined to the other for loosely receiving the projected portion, so as to define the predetermined range of play.

4. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising: ~~comprising~~
_____ a sheet feeder according to Claim 1.

5-12. (Canceled)

13. (new) The sheet feeder according to Claim 1, wherein the urging mechanism does not urge the feeding device when the feeding device is placed between the waiting position and the retracted position.